

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action dated January 26, 2005. Claims 1-46 are pending in the present application. Claim 40 has been amended to avoid ambiguity as to the nature of the window in which the help information is provided to the user. Claims 27, 43 and 44 also have been amended. Individual issues raised by the Examiner are addressed next in order in which they appear in the Office Action.

Drawings

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the corrected drawings were required. A set of corrected drawings is attached to this response.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In particular, it was contended that Applicants have failed to describe the method or criterion for merging portals. Applicants respectfully disagree. Enabling disclosure for merging portals is provided in the Specification, in the figures, and in the Appendix. In particular, details of merging are described, for example, in Section 1.4.1 of the specification on pages 9-12; Figures 1, 5, and 8; and the source code of Java classes disclosed in Appendix A on pages 1-54. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,737,539 issued to Edelson et al. (“Edelson”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

As amended, claim 40 of the present application, recites the steps of:

receiving input from a user directing a cursor of a computer mouse
to a position over one of the toolbar or menu items; and

receiving user input corresponding to a click of the right button of
the mouse;

locating a help file associated with the toolbar or menu item being
selected by the click; and

displaying information from the help file to the user in a window

located near the toolbar or menu item being selected by the click.

In other words, the claim steps provide for a method that allows the user to place the cursor of a mouse on a toolbar button or a menu item, and then “right-click” on that button or item to receive help information associated that button or item.

Edelson does not teach invoking a context-sensitive help window associated with a toolbar button or a menu item by clicking of the right mouse button. Edelson merely discloses clicking on the standard “Help” button with a mouse or penning it (touching it with a stylus). Edelson does not disclose, teach or suggest clicking for help on different toolbar or menu items, or right-clicking on a button or menu item to get help. To the extent the Office Action suggests that right-clicking the Edelson “Help” button would be an obvious modification, Applicants respectfully disagree. Activation of a help window by “right-clicking” was not standard in the art. Commonly used software applications would either display a menu, or not react at all, in response to a user “right-clicking” a particular item, but would not display context sensitive help window.

Further, Applicants respectfully disagree with the comment in the Office Action regarding the motivation to make modifications to existing systems by adding a right-click, context sensitive help. The art of record simply has no such suggestions and the rationale in the Office Action appears to offer little beyond using the Applicant’s inventions as a blueprint – which is impermissible under Federal Circuit precedent.

Based on the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 40, as amended, be withdrawn.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9-11, 13 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,754,672, issued to McLauchlin (“McLauchlin”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,434,563, issued to Pasquali et al. (“Pasquali”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 of the present application requires “at least one portal comprising a plurality of data viewers, each having access to a data source and being configured to perform analysis of data in the data source and displaying the results of an analysis, each portal having one or more of the following management features: create, save, open, edit, merge and destroy.” This limitation requires (1) the data viewers to have access to a data source; (2) the data viewers to perform analysis of data in the data source; and (3) the portal to have a capability

to manage data sources and be able to manage and manipulate the data source.

The examiner has admitted that “McLauchlin is silent in regards to a portal comprising a plurality of data viewers, [but that] Pasquali teaches on this aspect.” Pasquali discloses a browser application which is capable of simultaneously receiving multiple streams of data and displaying them in multiple content delivery windows within the browser.

Assuming that McLauchlin and Pasquali can be combined as suggested in the Office Action, such a combination would still fail to disclose every limitation of Claim 1 of the present application. McLauchlin discloses a web portal, which is a user interface, accessible by users with their web browsers. (McLauchlin, col. 8, ll. 40-47; col. 4, ll. 48-58). Pasquali discloses a browser with multiple viewers (see Pasquali, Abstract “[a] network client such as a WWW browser configured to facilitate a windowed content manifestation environment”). Therefore, the combination of McLauchlin and Pasquali would result in a system in which browsers with multiple viewers access a web portal. Such a combination of references would not result in a portal having multiple viewers, as required by Claim 1 of the present application.

Furthermore, none of the prior art references cited by the Examiner discloses portals with multiple viewers for managing data in the data sources. McLauchlin is not a data management system - none of the components of the disclosed system initiates changes to the data stored in the data sources. McLauchlin is only concerned with surveys of information that is being managed separately: “. . . [T]he interoperability engine may include . . . mechanisms to dynamically survey the information in the data source and/or the supplemental data source to determine if any changes have occurred within the data source and or the supplemental data source.” (McLauchlin, col. 7, ll. 50-54). In fact, data in the data sources is altered by entities other than the ones disclosed in the reference.

Pasquali discloses a system that is only capable of receiving and processing data. It is not concerned with and does not disclose any capability to manage data stored. Other references cited by the examiner are not pertinent to data sources and data management as well. None of the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination discloses, teaches, or even suggests a capability to manage data one or more data sources. Therefore, independent claim 1, and claims 2-4, 6, 8-11, 13, and 23, all of which depend on claim 1 are patentable over the art of record.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 7, 12, 14-19, 24-32, 34-39, and 44-46

were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLaughlin and Pasquali as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Edelson. Independent claims 27, and 44, as currently amended, their dependent claims, and dependent claim 43 have identical limitations to the limitation of claim 1 recited above. The Examiner introduces various combinations of Edelson, McLaughlin, Pasquali, and U.S. Patent No. 6,823,478 issued to Prologo et al. (“Prologo”) as grounds for rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103. As discussed with reference to Claim 1 above, none of these references, or any combinations thereof disclose, teach or even suggest a portal having a plurality of viewers, or that viewers have access to data sources, or have ability to manage data in the data sources. Therefore, claims 7, 12, 14-19, 24-26, that depend on claim 1, independent claim 27 and its dependent claims 28-32, and 34-39, and independent claim 44 and its dependent claims 45-46 are likewise patentable over the art of record.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, Examiner rejected independent claims 20-22, 33, 41, 42 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prologo and McLaughlin and further in view of Pasquali. Claim 41 recites the following limitation: “selecting data from one or more data sets using specified selection criteria.” This limitation requires performing a step of selecting certain items from one or more data sets, and then performing other operations on those selected items. Briefly, Prologo discloses a method for automated testing of software. A human tester composes input to the tested software. The first time the software is run, the output will be generated based on the composed input and saved in the “key file.” When the software is modified, it would process the input and produce output. The output would be compared to the key file. If there are any differences, then the tester would be notified.

Notably, Prologo does not mention selecting data from the output set. In fact, the method depends on comparison of all items in the produced output and the key file. According to the method disclosed in Prologo, the entire output produced by the modified software is compared to the entire content of the key file. Therefore, Prologo does not teach, disclose, or even suggest the step of “selecting data from one or more data sets using specified selection criteria.” Indeed, selecting data from the output set would go against Prologo’s teachings, because comparing only a subset of the output to the corresponding subset of the key file would not allow the disclosed system to determine reliably whether there is a difference in the output. Even in combination with the Edelson reference, which discloses a computerized prescription creation system for doctors, Prologo still does not

teach, disclose, or even suggest performing the selecting step.

Claim 42 recites the limitation of “selecting data from two or more data sets using specified selection criteria,” and is non-obvious for the same reasons as set forth in the analysis of claim 41. Claim 43 depends on claim 42 and is therefore patentable over the art of record. Claims 20-22 depend on claim 1 and are therefore patentable over the art of record for the reasons mentioned above in connection with claim 1. Claim 33 depends on claim 27 and is therefore patentable over the art of record for the reasons mentioned above in connection with claim 27.

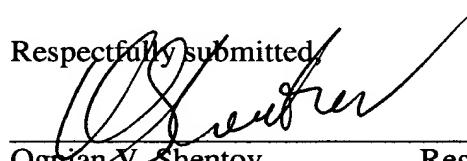
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that all obviousness rejections to be withdrawn.

Conclusion

On the basis of the above it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance. A prompt action by the Examiner to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning this submission, or any aspect of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the phone number listed below.

Date: June 27, 2005

Respectfully submitted,


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